TORONTO SKETCHES 3

"The Way We Were"

EXTRA
Includes guide to
Toronto Sun Mural



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Editor: Nadine Stoikoff
Printed and bound in Canada by Best Book Manufacturers

The publisher wishes to acknowledge the generous assistance and ongoing support of the **Canada Council, the Book Publishing Industry Development Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Ontario Arts Council, the Ontario Publishing Centre of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation, and the Ontario Heritage Foundation.**

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J. Kirk Howard, Publisher

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Filey, Mike, 1941–
Toronto sketches 3

ISBN 1-55002-227-X

1. Toronto (Ont.) – History. I. Title.

FC3097.4.F537 1994 971.3'541 C94-932849-9
F1059.5.T6857F537 1994

Dundurn Press Limited
2181 Queen Street East
Suite 301
Toronto, Canada
M4E 1E5

Dundurn Distribution
73 Lime Walk
Headington, Oxford
England
0X3 7AD

Dundurn Press Limited
1823 Maryland Avenue
P.O. Box 1000
Niagara Falls, N.Y.
U.S.A. 14302-1000

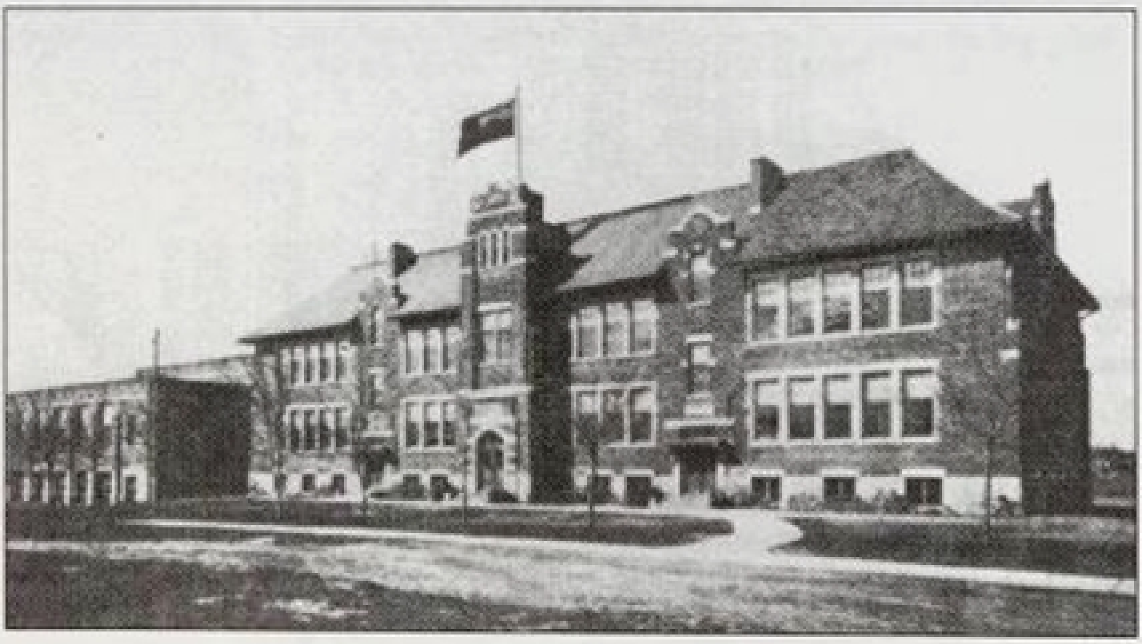
BACK TO THE HALLS OF LEARNING

October 10, 1982

Several months ago I wrote about a pictorial history of Weston that had just been published to celebrate the community's centennial. Once again Weston will be the site of an anniversary party. This time it will be at Weston Collegiate Institute. This coming October 15, 16, and 17 the Alumni Association is planning a number of events to which all former W.C.I. students are invited. A "golden tea," an evening dance and buffet dinner and other festivities are planned. Those wishing to participate are asked to contact "WCI 125th" at 416-763-1446.

To help celebrate this milestone, here follows a brief history of the collegiate.

It was through the efforts of William Tyrrell, James Cruickshank and William Nason that the Weston County Grammar School was founded on February 4, 1857. Temporarily housed in the basement of the Methodist Church (now central United) and later transferred to the Weston Library location, the school settled into its new quarters at King and Elm streets in 1858. Public spirited citizens raised the cost of construction, since no government aid was given. After fire destroyed Weston High School in 1875, William Tyrrell, using insurance monies, contracted to erect a new structure which was ready for use the next year.



Weston Collegiate as it was in 1926.

The present school property bordered by William, Pine and MacDonald Avenue was the site of an eight-room school built in 1912. Several additions through the years were added to accommodate increasing enrolment as well as a vocational department. Weston High and Vocational School in 1923 was the first composite school in York County. The familiar W.C.V.S. soon followed. Students travelled from Bolton, Nobleton, Nashville, Woodbridge and Thistletown to attend.

Another new wing in 1953 included a boy's gym, auditorium, library, cafeteria, classrooms and office. Our Centennial Homecoming Celebrations in 1957 were attended by 4,000 former students. A comprehensive history of the school was written by Dora Wattie, entitled *One Hundred Years — A Retrospect* to mark the occasion.

Once again, in the sixties, growing pains necessitated new facilities. While students carried on their studies in the old school, a modern concrete edifice was making its appearance on the football field. June in 1970 saw the last class leave "old" Weston Collegiate to enter the "new" Weston Collegiate Institute in September, 1970. So much had changed! A pool, three-storey auditorium, computer equipment, sound-proof music rooms and many other features were now available. W.C.I. has an enrolment of 1,450 students with teachers and staff of 101 at present.

You've come a long way, W.C.I., from your humble beginnings. Happy 125th Birthday!!